

# Kitsap Connection

For customers of Kitsap PUD's drinking water utility February/March 2020

## 2019: Year in Review

There's never a dull year at Kitsap PUD. In addition to the drinking water utility, we also operate a broadband utility (that is engaged in bringing broadband infrastructure to underserved and unserved areas of Kitsap County), a wastewater utility (which has built a state-of-the-art Membrane Bioreactor treatment plant at Port Gamble in an effort to retain more water in our freshwater system) and a Water Resources Monitoring Program (that collects critical data on Kitsap's hydrologic cycle). Additionally, we also maintain an active education program to educate citizens on Kitsap's water resources and steps we all can take to protect and utilize them responsibly. Since this newsletter focuses on our drinking water utility, let's look at some of last year's major milestones affecting that aspect of our operation.

**Newberry Well Pump Test:** In July, KPUD—in conjunction with Silverdale Water District—kicked off a year-long pump test of KPUD's Newberry Well #2. This well is slated to be a regional supply well. It is being pumped at 1,000 gallons per minute, continuously, for one year. The water is supplying Silverdale Water District's service area during the test. Silverdale's other production wells have been shut down while the test is ongoing. The pump test will yield information on the capacity of the source well as well as help define the extent of the Seabeck Aquifer.

**Regional Infrastructure Phase 8:** Kitsap PUD began construction of Phase 8 of Kitsap's Regional Drinking Water Infrastructure. Phase 8 consists of approximately 15,000 feet of water main that will connect KPUD's Vinland Water System to KPUD's North Peninsula Water System.

**Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring:** KPUD's North Peninsula Water System was sampled as part of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule #4. Unregulated contaminant monitoring is part of our nation's regulatory process. Periodically, water systems must screen for contaminants that are, currently, unregulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. If testing reveals widespread occurrence of these contaminants, the EPA goes through a rule-making process to add these to the list of regulated contaminants. Any unregulated contaminants detected in this test will be reported in the system's 2019 Consumer Confidence Report, which is due in June.

**Glyphosate:** In response to community concerns over the use of Glyphosate (the active ingredient in Roundup), KPUD conducted a series of water tests near sites where Glyphosate has been applied

as part of forestry operations. The tests did not detect any Glyphosate in any of the wells that were sampled.

**Vinland Water System Corrosion Control Study:** As part of our regulatory requirements, we routinely sample a representative number of homes on our water systems for lead and copper content. We know these minerals are not being supplied by the water system. Rather these tests tell us if lead and/or copper is being leached from household plumbing. In 2019, five sites on the Vinland Water System, tested above the so-called "Action Level" for lead. This requires us to conduct a Corrosion Control Study of the water system to see if there are any operational adjustments we can make to render the water less corrosive. That study is ongoing. As part of the regulatory requirement we must, periodically, send out "mandatory language" to all users on the system. Rather than incur the cost of a dedicated mailing to the 1,400 customers on the Vinland system, I will include the quarterly "mandatory language" here: *The Vinland Water System found high levels of lead in drinking water in some homes. Lead can cause serious health problems. For more information please call Mark Morgan at 360-626-7721 or visit <https://www.kpud.org/lead.php>.* Again, we know the water system is not delivering lead to customer's homes. FIVE in-home samples exceeded the so-called Action Level. This was the result of household plumbing in those homes leaching minerals. KPUD will continue to conduct the Corrosion Control Study and post "mandatory" language, as required. In an effort to save money, I will post updates and whatever else I can in this newsletter.

**Planning for a new facility:** In 2000 the Washington Legislature authorized Public Utility Districts to provide wholesale telecommunications services to their communities. Since then, KPUD has installed over 300 miles of broadband infrastructure in Kitsap County. This has grown a robust Telecom Department. In 2015, the voters of Kitsap County granted KPUD wastewater authority. This to oversee construction of and operate a new wastewater treatment facility in Port Gamble. This has grown a small, yet active, wastewater program. Why do I mention these two developments? To illustrate the growth of the District over the past couple decades (never mind the additional water systems we have taken on over that time!). The point being: we have outgrown our existing facility on Finn Hill Road. In preparation for a new facility, KPUD has purchased a property across the street from our existing office. Over the next year or so, we will flesh out plans for the site and facility. Stay tuned.

# 2019 continued... with pics!

I apologize for all the words on the front of this newsletter. I had a lot to squeeze in. On the back; however, we'll have a little more room. Now that we've taken care of the PUD "business", let's look at a couple more events, this time with some visual aids!

**Snake!** Last September, one of our Operators opened a meter box on Bainbridge Island and was SURPRISED to see a pretty big snake coiled up inside. To be fair, it wasn't a LARGE snake as far as snakes go, but it was larger than what we typically see around here. And when it surprises you when you remove a meter box lid, it looks HUGE. Turns out it was a Gopher Snake. We contacted the UW. They speculate it rode over from eastern Washington in a shipment of hay or grapes (there is a feed store and winery in the area where it was found).



**Right place, right time.** Last October, one of our Operators, Chad Waag (at right in photo), was making his rounds when he heard distress calls coming from the water near Kingston. A fisherman had been thrown from his boat and was clinging to a buoy, calling for help. A property owner in the area also heard the cries and called 911. North Kitsap Fire and Rescue dispatched a boat to rescue the stranded fisherman. The picture at left, courtesy of the Kitsap Sun, is from a ceremony in which the fisherman (center) thanked those involved in his rescue.

## Looking ahead to 2020...

It's always an iffy proposition guessing what the upcoming year will bring to Kitsap PUD. New regulations, new initiatives, new citizen concerns... all these things can appear on our doorstep requiring a response. That being said, here are a few things we KNOW we'll be dealing with in 2020:

**Bangor PFAS Study:** On January 23rd, we were notified by the U.S. Navy that they will be conducting a groundwater study in the vicinity of Bangor to test groundwater for PFAS. PFAS are a class of chemicals that have been used in a wide array of products; things like non-stick cookware, furniture upholstery and fire-fighting foam. Because the Navy has detected PFAS in some areas where they have used fire-fighting foam, they are screening all locations of prior use (like Bangor) to see if any has infiltrated into groundwater. Kitsap PUD has tested two wells we have in the area. Results will be available near the end of this month. When we receive results, we will

post them on our webpage. The Navy has contacted property owners in the area and will begin testing wells in late February.

**More Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring:** Our North Peninsula, West Kitsap and South Bainbridge water systems will be sampled for unregulated contaminants in 2020.

**Newberry Well #2 Pump Test:** The pump test will wrap up in July. Data analysis and a summary report will follow the test's conclusion.

**And...** Hopefully, the year will bring you all joy. And gratitude. Remember, we have an abundance of good water in Kitsap. Lots of people in this world aren't so lucky. Best wishes to you all for a wonderful 2020.



### Kitsap PUD

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### 2020 Water Rates

2020 Rates shown below are for a typical residential service. Remember: KPUD bills on a bi-monthly basis.

#### Basic Service Charge

\$26.00 (monthly)

\$52.00 (per 2-month billing)

#### Commodity Charge

**Tier 1** (0-1,400 cubic feet)  
\$1.31 per 100 cubic feet\*

**Tier 2** (1,401—2,400 cubic feet)  
\$1.87 per 100 cubic feet

**Tier 3** (2,401—4,000 cubic feet)  
\$2.88 per 100 cubic feet

**Tier 4** (over 4,000 cubic feet)  
\$7.10 per 100 cubic feet

\*100 cubic feet equals 748 gallons

### Kitsap Water Fact

KPUD is participating in a committee to study and help mitigate the effects of private drinking water wells on Kitsap's water resources. The committee is the result of a court case, commonly referred to as the Hirst case. In this, the court ordered counties to better understand what impacts a private well might have prior to permitting a property for development with a private well as a water source. In response to the court ruling, Washington Department of Ecology has established committees in counties throughout the state.